



The 2015  
Miss Cambodian American DC Pageant  
Hosted by Cambodian Community Day

Saturday November 21st



# The Cambodian Buddhist Temple of Richmond



*Cambodian Buddhist Temple of Richmond  
8180 Windsor Drive  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111  
Abbot: Rev Kim Cang  
Phone: (804) 564-6255*



*សូមអរគុណដល់ព្រះតេជគុណគីមកាងដែលបានជួយគាំទ្រដល់ការរើសបរកេត្តា  
ខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំងឆ្នាំ២០១៥  
Thank you Rev Kim Cang, Abbot of Cambodian Buddhist Temple of Richmond, who supports  
MCADC 2015*

8181 Windsor Drive, Mechanicsville, VA 23111  
Phone (804) 564 6255

# Organizing Committee

President of Cambodian Community Day (CCD) - Ben Bao  
Vice President, General Manager - Sophia Tep  
Executive Director, Miss Cambodian American DC (MCADC) - Ithara Phlong  
Treasurer - Somony Yann  
Communications - Ratanak Srey  
Truong Lee (Lee Wedding Studio) - Christopher Aldous Photography  
Graphic Designers - Ratanak Srey - Chris Aldous - Ithara Phlong  
Website Designer - Ben Bao  
Sound - Sereyvuddhy Phlong - Khuy Lim  
Wardrobe - Sue Dana Duong - Sochietah Ung -  
Rani Lushinski - Marie Chea  
Opening Dance choreographer - Sochietah Ung  
Public Speaker Trainer - Sarah Kith  
Pageant Coach - Victory Ramnarine - Mia Simms  
Pageant Assistants - Mealy Chhim - Chanthary Koch Kuy - Nica Outtarac  
Sovathary Hum - Somony Yann - Saody Sok - Vil Cheng - Salang Bao  
Pisey Prom - Dalene Prom  
Flowers - Saody Sok

## Ratanak Srey, - Mistress of Ceremony

Ratanak Srey, one of the founding members of CCD Youth and co-organizer of the Khmer Music Festival (KMF), was born in the woods of Cambodia at the beginning of the war, is a survivor of the Killing Fields. After escaping from Cambodia, she applied herself in education to better herself through full scholarships at an all girls private school then on to Cornell University where she majored in French. After Cornell, she went on to work in the field of finance and grants administration at the Weill Cornell Medical College. She takes pride in being Cambodian American and looks forward to working on future projects with CCD and MCADC to help promote and preserve her rich Cambodian culture. KMF - Follow the Movement.

## Ty Phea, - Master of Ceremony

Ty Phea, one of the founding members of CCD Youth and co-organizer of the Khmer Music Festival (KMF), is currently an honors student of Strayer University pursuing his B.S. in Business. Concurrently, he is a material support specialist and supply chain and logistics representative at Eaton Corporation. He feels strongly in being an active member of the Cambodian community and takes pride in the success of the 2015 KMF. His hobbies include music, searching for new local talent, drawing, writing and internet commerce. He aspires to own a radio show one day. KMF - Follow the Movement.



# CCD Mission Statement

Cambodian Community Day (CCD) is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization established to promote, present and preserve our rich Cambodian culture. CCD seeks to integrate Khmer culture into American society to ensure the continuation of Cambodian cultural heritage, especially among Cambodian-American youths. We also work to strengthen Cambodian voice, empower Cambodian communities, bridge distances, heal rifts and build bonds among Khmers and other ethnic groups.

## Purpose

CCD was founded by a group of Cambodian volunteers in the Washington DC area in 2001 to promote Cambodian culture. CCD organizes and collaborates Cambodian cultural resources and presents them to the public through various events such as the Khmer New Year in April, the annual Cambodian Cultural Festival in the summer and the Asian Pacific Heritage Month in May. Our main focus includes (but is not limited) to:

- Promoting Cambodian culture in America, especially among youths;
- Supporting efforts to conserve history and culture;
- Educating the public about the rich Cambodian culture, heritage, custom, and tradition;
- Fostering coordination and cooperation with other groups with similar interests;
- Raising community awareness about Cambodia's history and culture and the importance of preserving them; and
- Disseminating truthful information about the Cambodian culture and related researches in Cambodia and the USA.

## What we do

CCD provides some ad hoc services to the Khmer community, participates in fundraising activities for various charitable organizations, and foremost, celebrates the Cambodian culture through the annual Cambodian Cultural Festival. The festival is a token of solidarity in the Khmer communities surrounding the Washington DC Metro area. The festival has enabled us to develop bonds, bridge differences and heal rifts in the Khmer communities and beyond. It also provides a means to reach out and share our values with others.

The festival, attended by several thousand spectators each year, is a showcase of Khmer traditional music, classical, folklore and social dances and shows, and children's games, arts and crafts, exhibitions and much more. For example, in 2013, CCD organized a unique folklore show titled "Yeeke Mak Theung". In 2014, we produced Lakhon Bassac, a Khmer opera play, a form of Khmer traditional entertainment that UNESCO deems is on its way to extinction. In 2015, we produced another show entitled "Yeekae Mear Yeung" also known as "Neang Kanhcheu Thlous". Khmer Music Festival (KMF), organized by CCD Youth, was also part of the 2015 CCD cultural festival weekend. During Khmer New Year in April 2015, we organized a "Look Back to the 60's Cambodia" shows.

Besides major productions, we also organize fashion shows to highlight Cambodian traditional clothing from thousands of years ago, participated by Cambodian youths. The shows were presented during Khmer New Year where more than 10,000 celebrants attended. The importance of the festival is to bring large groups of people in the community together to have fun and to share experiences. The festival also exposes Cambodian culture, tradition and values to young Cambodian American. Visit our website today at [www.CambodianCommunityDay.org](http://www.CambodianCommunityDay.org).

# Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends, Distinguished Guests

Tonight, we are going to witness a journey of four beautiful young Cambodian American women competing for the title of Miss Cambodian American DC 2015. The four contestants are crème de la crème, the best of the best. They have vigorously and relentlessly pursued perfection in their preparation over the past few months. They understand that the journey did not start back then. It starts from tonight as one of them will emerge the winner and carry the title of Miss Cambodian American DC, an Ambassador of goodwill of our Cambodian Community to other communities, a role model for young Cambodian Americans of her generation.

To compete for this title, our contestants will exhibit and reveal their beauty, intelligence and talent. In my mind, they are all winners, all beautiful and accomplished. But, the one who can demonstrate to the judges and to you that she has mastered all three elements of the competition will be the representative to be the role model to other young Cambodian Americans.

Cambodian Community Day, a 501(c)(3) organization, established and appended the Miss Cambodian American Pageant to the overall CCD cultural programs to utilize the beauty, the intelligence, and the compassion of Miss Cambodian American DC to advance our cause of spreading the Cambodian culture.

Please enjoy the event tonight. Please continue to support us. Do not hesitate to contact me or my colleagues for any questions that you may have.

ជំរាបសួរថ្ងៃយមិត្តជាទីមេត្រី!  
ថ្ងៃនេះខ្ញុំមានចិត្តរីករាយជាអតិបរិមាដែលបានឃើញថ្ងៃយមិត្តមកចូលរួមក្នុងពិធីវេសបរវកញ្ញាខ្មែរ  
អាមេរិកាំងឆ្នាំ២០១៥។ យុវនារីខ្មែរ២នាក់ដែលមានរូបសម្ផស្សល្អ មានការមេត្រីក្នុងរយៈពេល  
ប៉ុន្មានខែកន្លងមកនេះរៀបចំខ្លួនចូលប្រកួតយកមុខនាទីជាបរវកញ្ញាឆ្នាំ២០១៥។ ការជ្រើសរើសបរវ  
កញ្ញាខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំង មិនមែនសំដៅតែទៅលើសម្ផស្សមួយមុខគត់របស់នារីទាំងបួននោះទេ។ យើង  
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ផែនការល្អក្នុងការកសាងជីវិតទៅថ្ងៃអនាគត មានចិត្តសន្តោសប្រោសប្រណីដល់អ្នកដទៃ មានការ  
គោរពប្រណិបត្តិប្រពៃណីខ្មែរ និងមានចិត្តចង់បំរើនិងលើកតម្លៃសង្គមខ្មែរ ។ល។ ដូច្នេះហើយ  
ដំណើរជីវិតរបស់គេគឺចាប់ផ្តើមពីពិតនេះទៅ ព្រោះថាមុខងារនេះមានន័យសំខាន់ណាស់  
ដោយសារខ្លួនគេមិនត្រឹមតែជាបរវកញ្ញាប៉ុណ្ណោះទេ គេក៏ជាទូតរបស់សហគមន៍ខ្មែរទៅនឹងសហគម  
ផ្សេងទៀត ហើយក៏ជានារីគំរូល្អដល់កូនក្មេងខ្មែរទៀតដែរ។ បេក្ខជនទាំង២នាក់ត្រូវតែបង្ហាញ  
ចៅក្រមនិងទស្សនិកជនទាំងអស់ ថាខ្លួនមានសម្រស់ស្អាត មានប្រាជ្ញាឃ្លៀសវៃ ហើយមានសន្តាន  
ចិត្តសប្បុរសធម៌ ហើយត្រូវត្រៀមចាំខ្លួនបំរើសង្គមខ្មែរនៅពេលដែលបានឈ្នះហើយ។ យើងសង្ឃឹម  
ថា បរវកញ្ញាដែលមានលក្ខណៈទាំងបីប្រការនេះ អាចជួយបំរើនិងជំរុញអោយពិភពលោកស្គាល់  
ខ្មែរក្នុងន័យល្អកាន់តែប្រសើរជាងមុន។  
  
សូមអរគុណដល់អស់លោកលោកស្រីនិងថ្ងៃយមិត្តទាំងអស់ដែលបានអញ្ជើញមកកុះករក្នុងពិធី  
នេះ។ សូមអញ្ជើញចូលរួមសប្បាយជាមួយយើងខ្ញុំ។



Sincerely,  
Ben Bao  
CCD/President

# MCADC Mission statement

Our mission is to empower young American women of Cambodian heritage by providing a platform that promotes the development of confidence, self-esteem and cultural identity.

## Purpose

Miss Cambodian American DC Pageant (MCADC) is a cultural event that seeks to celebrate the talent, intellect, and accomplishments of young Cambodian American women. It is a platform for one outstanding young woman to represent the Cambodian American community, promote cultural awareness, and serve as an inspiration and role model to other young Americans of Cambodian heritage.

## Miss Cambodian American DC Titleholder

The titleholder is a role model for her community, she is a leader to all she serves, she is beautiful, well spoken, talented, charismatic, reflective of women of her generation, possesses positive Cambodian values such as integrity, compassion and maturity to handle all MCADC responsibilities. She will not only receive the crown and the prizes but will also assume the duties that come with this title.

Cambodian Community Day and Miss Cambodian American DC would like to thank the following generous contributors for helping make this event possible:

Cambodian Buddhist Society, Inc,	Mealy Chhim
Cambodian Buddhist Association of Richmond	Sovathary Sen-Hum
Truong Lee of Lee Wedding Studio	Saody Sok
Exxon Mobile Corporation	Somony Yann
Rose Marie Amour of Forever Living Products	Mrs Pheach Srey
Liza and Steve Pulleng from Fitness with Synergy	Isabelle Hum
Suki Tan from Joi Wig	Marie Chea
Dr Sovan Tun	Arnold Nhim
Venerable Cang Kim	Samoeuk Man
Salang Bao	Pisey Prom
Sue Dana Duong	Dalene Prom
Vil Cheng and Khuy Lim	Sereyuddhy Phlong
Sokhary and Sophorn Nuon	Marida Khan's family
Sue Dana Duong	Angela Ea's family
Sochietah Ung	Regina Yap's family
Nica Outtarac	Samantha Lushinski's family
Chanthary Koch Kuy	Chris Aldous of Chris Aldous Photography





## Executive Director's Welcome

I am pleased to welcome you to the 2nd year of the Miss Cambodian American DC (MCADC) pageant. We have a unique event that not only celebrate the beauty of Cambodian women but the talents and accomplishments of our young generation. MCADC was established with the objective to empower young Cambodian American women and to create role models and future leaders who will advocate for the goodwill of the community. The Miss Cambodian DC is an important voice to our community. In supporting the next generation of Cambodian American women tonight, we are helping all our inspiring contestants to lift up their voices and advance our community.

We are privileged and honored to have all of you here to share in the excitement of crowning the Miss Cambodian American DC 2015. I salute all our contestants for their enduring efforts and cooperation in putting their best foot forward to make our pageant a tremendous success. In my eyes, each of you is a winner. Regardless of the outcome, each will have gained greater poise and confidence, improved communication skills and new friendships.

We say that beauty resides in the eye of the beholder but I believe that true beauty resides within. This evening's competition will reveal the inner beauty of each contestant, her character, talent and intelligence.

Thank you for being here tonight in support of Cambodian American women. I wish to express my gratitude to our sponsors, Cambodian Buddhist Society, Inc (Temple in Silver Spring), Cambodian Buddhist Association of Richmond, Chris Aldous Photography, Lee Wedding Studio, Exxon Mobile, Forever Living, Fitness with Synergy and the following individuals, Ben Bao, Sophia Tep, Sovan Tun, Venerable Cang Kim, Ratanak Srey, Salang Bao, Chris Aldous, Truong Lee, Marie Chea, Vil Cheng, Khuy Lim, Sue Dana Duong, Nica Outtarac, Chanthary Koch Kuy, Mealy Chhim, Saody Sok, Somony Yann and many more...

On behalf of MCADC, I would like to thank our 2014 winners, Chhomnimol Murielle Sokhon and Paula Chea for being part of our legacy and for carrying your titles with honor, grace and beauty. May you continue your good work as ambassadors of MCADC.



Ithara Phlong - Executive Director, Miss Cambodian American DC (MCADC)

# Chris Aldous Photography

It has been my pleasure to share in your journey, to document through my photography the activities and culture of my Cambodian friends. You have all taken me into a world I would not have experienced without you. I am better for it, and I thank you all. Good luck and fortune to each and all.

*Chris A*

Chris Aldous

Instagram - [ChrisAldousPhotography](#) 717 378 0101 [ChrisAldousPhotography.com](#)



# Showtime Schedule

Welcome  
Ratanak Srey and Ty Phea

Greetings from CCD President  
Ben Bao

Welcome Remarks from Pageant Director  
Ithara Phlong

Opening Dance – Cambodian Traditional  
Chreography by Sochietah Ung, Music by Puklang

Introduction of Judges

Remarks by Cambodian Buddhist Society, Inc  
Dr. Tun Sovan, President

Contestant Introduction

Talent Performances

Fitness Wear

Special Guest – The Fast Delivery

Cambodian Segment – Kbeun and Presentation of Proverbs

Introduction of 2014 MCADC Winner and 1st Runner up  
MCADC 2014 Winner, Murielle Sokhon  
MCADC 2014 1st Runner Up – Paula Chea

Evening Gown with Interview Questions

Announcement of Winners

## Regina Yap

Khmer Proverb:  
“Let your parents eat  
while their throat is in vertical position.”



## Samantha Lushinski

Khmer Proverb:  
“A person’s promise is as valuable  
as an elephant’s tusk.”



## Angela Ea

Khmer Proverb:

“An elephant on its four legs may stumble;  
even a knowledgeable scholar may be forgetful.”

4



## Marida Jompa Khan

Khmer Proverb:

“You can't claim heaven as your own  
if you are just going to sit under it.”

3



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# Chhonnimol Murielle Sokhon

2014 Miss Cambodian American DC

“I can honestly say that participating in this pageant was the best decision of my life. I met so many great people, I have learned and grown so much throughout this experience, and I have acquired skills that will carry me for years to come. Being a spokeswoman for the MCADC has opened doors for me that would not have been possible if not for this pageant. Even though it wasn't a national title, it made me feel like a celebrity. It was amazing to be able to go to different events and talk about spreading the Cambodian culture. If I could do it all over again, I would in a heartbeat. This year has been the best year of my life and I'm so proud to be the first Miss Cambodian American DC.”





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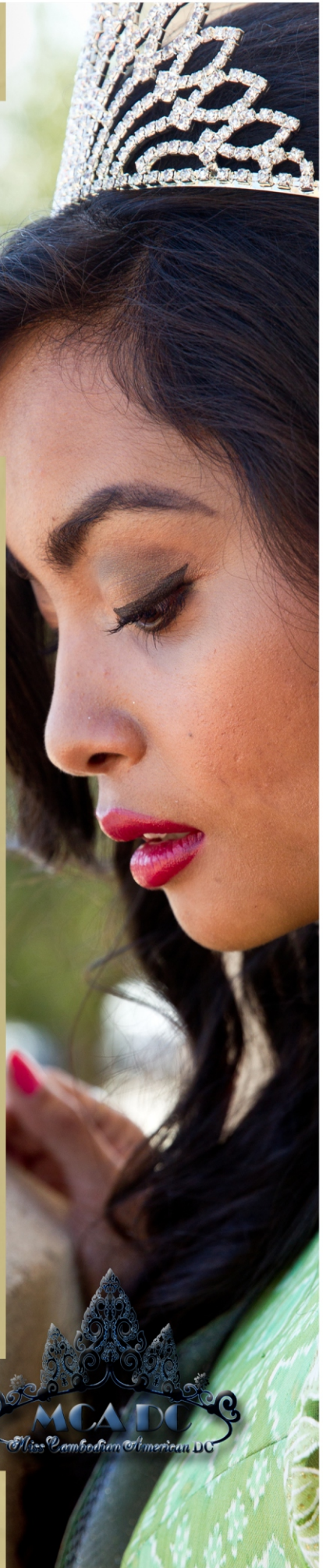
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## Paula Chea - 2014 1st Runner Up

“It has been a pleasure to be the 2014 Miss Cambodian American DC 1st Runner Up. This pageant has provided me many opportunities to represent the Cambodian community and to spread our culture to the younger generation and to others. This is important to me because I am very proud of my Cambodian culture and I believe that our heritage deserves a lot of attention and a lot more awareness because not many people know about us. On top of that I believe that it is very important for us to teach our younger generation to appreciate our culture, our language and our past and to be proud of who we are and where we come from. It has been an amazing journey with MCADC.”





## Hello, my name is Samantha Lushinski.

I am a 17 year old senior at Stone Bridge High School. I enjoy sports such as cross country, tennis, golf, swimming, and cycling. I also enjoy music. I play three instruments - violin, piano, and guitar. I work three jobs on top of my school courses and participate in many volunteer activities. For example, every Wednesday morning, I assist autistic kids at an elementary school. Recently, I was awarded a full scholarship from the Navy; therefore, I will be taking the Navy ROTC route in college where I will major in engineering. I plan to serve on a submarine after college. I hope to encourage other girls to follow in my footsteps by volunteering in your community and become more involved in your school.



## Hello, my name is Marida Khan.

I am an 18 year old freshman at Virginia Commonwealth University. I am currently pledging in Theta Tau, working in undergraduate research, and working towards my dream of becoming a role model for women in the STEM fields.

I am pursuing a degree in Computer Engineering with aspirations to use my knowledge to reach out to young children and women interested in the field. I enjoy trying new things, whether it's swimming, rock-climbing, playing the piano, or exploring Richmond. As a Cambodian American, I take great pride in my culture and hope to learn and share its beauty with others.







## Hello, my name is Angela Ea.

I am a 19 year old sophomore at Virginia Commonwealth University, majoring in Radiation Science. I have a council position in an organization called For The Children at VCU. I enjoy dancing, volunteering, adventuring, working out, and drawing. I love being a team player and working with others, especially children. I do my best in participating in the Cambodian community by doing traditional dance and volunteer work. I believe it is very important to stay close to your culture and heritage and I would like to encourage other young women and children to represent their cultural identity with confidence.



## Hello, my name is Regina Yap.

I am an 18 year old senior at Langley High School. I am a member of four honor societies and a president of my own science and technology club. I try to carve out time to take part in technology programs and practice Cambodian dance. From raising money for the homeless to working on committees with prominent women in the technology field, I give 110% of myself. Don't let my place in the pageant fool you -- I also earned my second degree black belt in Taekwondo. Once I receive my college degree,

I hope to pursue a career in computer science. My number one dream is to become a pioneer for women in science through encouraging participation in the science and technology related fields for other women.





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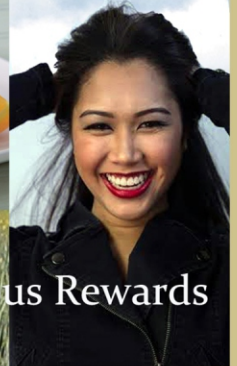


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MCADC 2015



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TFD (The Fast Delivery) is a cover band consisting of Tony, Julie and Destiny, three musicians who came together to share their love of music with others.

They decided on the name 'The Fast Delivery' because of a Chinese food calendar that was close by. Tony is a graduate at Science Leadership Academy who likes to draw and sing. Julie is a 17 year old who likes to play the guitar and sing. Destiny, a high school junior who enjoys inspiring people, is part of show choir/jazz singers. For more information about The Fast Delivery, visit <http://theteenagearmoire.com> where they talk about fashion, beauty, and music. You can also find covers and songs of the month picked out by The Fast Delivery themselves.



## Meet the judges



**Jordyn Goddard** began her pageant journey 8 years ago and has held many titles since then. She is the reigning Miss Maryland United States and placed in the Top 10 at the Miss United States Pageant in July. Jordyn graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and currently teaches 3rd grade with Prince George's County Public Schools. Her goal is to generate positivity and help create a sense of urgency in today's education system while preparing young students to be lifelong learners. Jordyn is a former member of the Mighty Sound of Maryland Marching Band, has several years of combined dance, gymnastics, and music experience, and stays active by rock climbing. She is recently engaged to a United States Air Force veteran. They both live in Rockville, MD with their pets.



**Dr. Sarah Kin** is a local Marylander and a practicing Family Medicine resident physician at Prince George's Hospital Center. Dr. Kin overcame amazing odds to become what she is today. Her origins are humble. Of Cambodian descent, she was born in a refugee camp at the end of the Khmer Rouge. She then immigrated to the United States with her family at the young age of four. Growing up she was dedicated to her studies and passionate about community service. Dr. Kin graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor's degree in Business Management. There, she served as Vice President of the Cambodian American Student Society, an on campus organization where she helped to mentor other students and promote awareness about Cambodian affairs and culture. She went on to pursue her M.D. from Georgetown University School of Medicine to fulfill her dreams of being a doctor for her community whereby she can affect positive change in the lives of others. Outside of work, Dr. Kin is a fan of the outdoors and loves traveling, sight-seeing, following the arts, including various music and fashion trends. She firmly believes that with a clear focus and hard work any dream can be made into a reality.

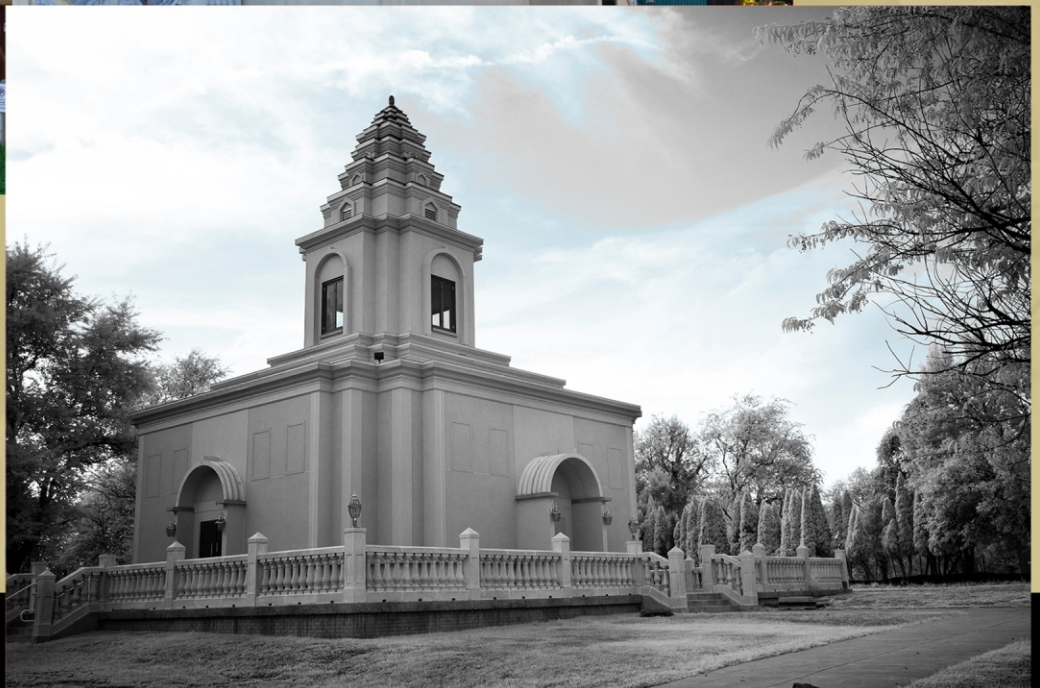


**Odeh Stevens** is a counsel at Invesco Ltd., a global investment management company, headquartered in Atlanta. Prior to joining Invesco in 2014, Odeh worked for Charles Schwab in San Francisco as a Director and Corporate Counsel. Prior to that, Odeh worked at various financial services companies in Boston, including State Street Bank and Trust Company, Fidelity Investments, JPMorgan Chase, and Columbia Management. Odeh is a graduate of the University of Ife, the Nigerian Law School, Boston University, and Harvard University.



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**13800 New Hampshire Avenue**  
**Silver Spring, Maryland 20904**  
**301 622 6544**